

Converting Guidelines to Practice

Organizing your team based on the tasks required in the guidelines is a helpful place to start. For example, to screen for neuropathy in patients with diabetes, a monofilament sensation test is evidence-based practice. Ensuring that all patients with diabetes receive this test annually requires team effort. Here is how one Washington State primary care practice implemented the guideline:

Guideline Processes for Diabetic Foot Exams	Person Responsible	When/How/Why
Foot sticker placed on front of chart for all patients with diabetes	Front Desk	At check-in/on MD's advice/after a new diagnosis
Determine date of last foot exam	Medical assistant or person doing vitals	Taken from flow sheet in chart. Annual exam unless otherwise noted. Flowsheet placed on front of chart.
Shoes and socks removed (if due)	Medical assistant or person doing vitals	Date of last exam triggers removal of socks and shoes
Explanation of foot exam (when needed)	Medical assistant or person doing vitals	As shoes and socks are being removed and other vitals being assessed
Monofilament placed on top of chart	Medical assistant or person doing vitals	To make sure right equipment is at hands of provider
Sensate test performed	Trained provider (RN, PA, NP, MD)	Results recorded on flowsheet

Excerpted from ICIC's Steps for Improvement Manual by Mike Hindmarsh.

Available at

http://www.improvingchroniccare.org/index.php?p=Steps_for_Improvement&s=37.